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WILLIAM HENRY FLACK

(Late a Representative from New York)

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

Fifty-ninth Congress
Second Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 24, 1907

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
March 2, 1907

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DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM H. FLACK

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

SATURDAY, *February 2, 1907.*

The House met at 12 o'clock m.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, as follows:

Infinite and eternal spirit, God, our heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being. We thank Thee for every aspiration, for every earnest and noble endeavor which leads on to larger life and civilization, and for that profound appreciation which enables us to recognize the nobility of soul and real worth in our fellow-men. We thank Thee for the special order which sets apart this day as a memorial service to one who became conspicuous as a statesman, who by earnest and faithful endeavor rose from the humble position of a page on the floor of the United States Senate to a member of that august body, and who by common consent became the leader of his party, than which no greater encomium could be pronounced, no grander monument reared to his memory. Grant that his character may ever be an inspiration to noble and pure living to those who survive him and to those who come after us, and Thine be the glory forever. And now, Almighty Father, we are again moved by the news of the death of one of our Congressional family. Comfort, we beseech Thee, those who are bereft of a dear one, and help us all to live so that when our time shall come we shall pass on and

hear the word, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of thy Lord. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mr. KNAPP. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I announce to this House the death of my colleague, WILLIAM H. FLACK, of New York, which occurred at his home in Malone at 8.15 this morning. Mr. FLACK was beloved by his neighbors and immediate constituency and held in high esteem by his colleagues in this House. At some future time I shall ask the House to fix a day for eulogies suitable to his life and character. Mr. Speaker, I now offer the following resolutions.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolutions

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That a committee of fifteen Members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces the following committee:

Messrs. Sherman, Littauer, Knapp, Draper, Driscoll, Fassett, Dwight, Ryan, Fitzgerald, Goulden, Grosvenor, Minor, Watson, Howell of New Jersey, and Reynolds.

Mr. KNAPP. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following additional resolution:

Resolved, That at the conclusion of the memorial exercises assigned for the day the House shall stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of WILLIAM H. FLACK.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Platt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That a committee of six Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to join a committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

And that in compliance with the foregoing the Vice-President had appointed as said committee Mr. Platt, Mr. Depew, Mr. Kean, Mr. Bulkeley, Mr. Dubois, and Mr. Newlands.

The motion of Mr. Gill (that the House do now adjourn) was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned.

MONDAY, *February 11, 1907*.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Sunday, February 24, be set apart for the purpose of pronouncing eulogies upon the life and character of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

SUNDAY, *February 24, 1907*.

The House met at 10 o'clock a. m.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., as follows:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. For

we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our house which is from heaven:

If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, whose heart goes out in approbation and love to those who seek to do Thy will and thus add to the sum of human happiness and departing leave the world a little better that they have lived and wrought.

We thank Thee for the men whose characters and deeds we are here to memorialize, men whose gifts and talents fitted them in an eminent degree for the onerous duties laid upon them by their fellow-citizens. Let Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, be upon this service, that those who shall record their tribute of love and respect may inspire those who shall come after them to faithful service.

We thank Thee for the hope of immortality which lifts us in our better moments to larger life and nobler deeds and which bids us look forward to a brighter world beyond the

confines of earth. Let Thine everlasting arms be about those who mourn the loss of their dear ones, and in Thine own good time bring them to dwell together in one of the many mansions prepared for those who love the Lord, and Thine be the praise forever. Amen.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be suspended and that opportunity be now afforded Members to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That as a special mark of respect and esteem for Mr. FLACK, the House, at the conclusion of these proceedings, adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ADDRESS OF MR. SHERMAN, OF NEW YORK

Mr. SPEAKER: WILLIAM HENRY FLACK, for two terms a Member of this House, departed this life at his home in Malone, N. Y., on the morning of February 2 last, in his forty-sixth year. While the news of his decease did not come as a surprise to his friends and acquaintances, it was nevertheless a blow that brought to them heartfelt sorrow and deep sympathy for those he left behind, and for whom he entertained the love of a husband and father, idealic in its character and profound in its depth.

Mr. FLACK, because of his physical condition, had not, during his incumbency of office, made the impress upon this House of which he was capable, yet he evinced all the qualities of a capable legislator, and he certainly was an industrious Representative, especially in matters affecting his district. His fidelity, his faithfulness, his manliness, his sturdy character were at once apparent to those with whom he came in contact. Reared to labor, and touching elbows in his younger days with men whose range of thought was limited, he sought a broader environment and soon attained it. His limited education was no bar to his progress toward honorable distinction, and he endeavored in every way, and with success, to broaden himself intellectually. Possessed of a judgment accurate and keen, he was a close and industrious student and reader, and soon began to make an impress on the community in which he lived. His

political sagacity was unerring and his advice, which was freely sought, not alone on political but on other matters, was as freely bestowed. In business as well as in politics he was ruggedly honest and every pledge was kept. Those who knew him are better for having known him and the community where he lived is better for having counted him as an integral and component part.

No man can speak ill of him. No man can say he was untrue to a trust or a promise. His every act, personally or officially, was the act of an honest man, and his memory will abide with those who knew him as that of a man from every standpoint. His heart, his brain, his endeavor were all as true as the needle. Beloved by his intimates, respected by his neighbors and his constituents, admired by those with knowledge of his reputation, Mr. FLACK went to meet his Maker with no fear of the judgment and, I believe, with no wish that even one page of his record as a man might be erased or altered so far as his relations with his fellow-men were concerned.

He believed in his God, in his country, in his home, and in his friends. His effort was not for narrow betterment—the betterment of the individual alone—but for the betterment which affected the individuals and the community of which he was a part. No trumpet announced his comings and goings, but results told of his being there. He knew his own capacity and recognized his limitations. He used the former with judgment and never attempted to go beyond the latter. He was what he appeared—big of body, of heart, of brain; true to his honest instincts. Without effort so to do, he made and retained warm friends. They were drawn to him by his splendid, manly qualities, and they stayed with him from choice. To have been of his friends was a privilege, the memory of which will be pleasing and lasting.

Address of Mr. Goulden, of New York

Mr. Speaker: Only those who knew William Henry Flack intimately can appreciate the loss sustained by his untimely death. It was my good fortune to serve with him on the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries during two Congresses. Service of this character, and especially as we both came from the Empire State, makes companions of Members.

The late Mr. Flack was a genial, honorable, whole-souled gentleman, a self-made man. He was born in 1861, hence at his untimely death he was less than 46 years of age—in the prime of life. Since his advent in this House his health had been in rather a precarious condition. Notwithstanding his physical ailments he was faithful in the discharge of his duties, pleasant and agreeable in his intercourse with his associates. Of him in his daily work the words of Emerson apply:

> Life is too short to waste
> The critic's bite or cynic's bark.
> Quarrel or reprimand;
> 'Twill soon be dark;
> Up! Mind thine own aim, and
> God speed the mark.

Being honored by the Speaker with an appointment to attend the funeral services of the late Mr. Flack, in common with my colleagues on the committee, I had the opportunity of observing his standing in the community in which he was born and lived.

Upon our arrival in Malone on the morning of February 5 a general gloom seemed to pervade the beautiful little mountain city, the capital of Franklin County, N. Y. At noon all

the places of business closed and remained so until after the funeral. The church was filled with his friends, and the services, conducted by four ministers of the gospel, of as many different creeds, took part in the impressive ceremonies. His Masonic brethren and other fraternal bodies were present in large numbers. The scene was one never to be forgotten, and made a lasting impression on his colleagues who were present. An old friend of his, speaking to a member of the committee, said: "FLACK was a man in every sense of the word, a model husband, a loving father, an obliging neighbor, and a kind, true friend." This was the universal opinion as expressed by friends and neighbors.

He has gone from among us, having crossed to the other shore, in the full hope of a blessed immortality. We firmly believe that our loss is his gain. It is a road that we must all travel, for it is appointed unto man once to die. This decree is unalterable; all must meet the destroyer—death. The memory of the life and deeds of our late colleague is ours to cherish and emulate.

He sleeps, but in that sleep beneath the sod
No dreams shall come—those dreams that banish sleep;
No watchers then, naught save the eyes of God,
To watch his slumber long, and still, and deep.
Then mourn him not as dead—he can not die—
And mourn him not as sleeping in that day;
He wakes, he lives, not far in yonder sky,
But near us, though not seen, he walks to-day.

His memory will ever abide with his friends, a benediction and a blessing.

Address of Mr. Minor, of Wisconsin

Mr. Speaker: My acquaintance with our late respected colleague, Hon. William H. Flack, found its beginning in the early part of the Fifty-eighth Congress. As a Member thereof, he was to begin his Congressional life that, so unfortunately for himself and his country, terminated too briefly to permit him to attain to the higher positions in the House of Representatives that he certainly would have won had his health permitted or his life been spared long enough to give him the experience so necessary for a Representative in Congress—an experience that can only come from long service in the House.

Brother Flack was assigned to the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, of which I was, and had been for several years, a member. Here it was that I formed his acquaintance and learned to respect his sterling qualities. I early discovered that he was not physically strong. It was plain that he was a sick man; but his determination to perform the duties of the position to which he had been assigned, in spite of physical infirmities, attracted my attention and commanded the admiration of all his associates on the committee.

We knew that Brother Flack attended meetings of the committee very often when, if he had given more thought to his physical needs, he would have remained away; but with him it was a contest between physical weakness and a mental determination to discharge the duties of his position; it was a question that arose between a sick bed and his duty in the committee room, and duty always won with him.

Brother Flack was among the most conscientious of Mem-

bers, endowed with a strong mind and a high sense of public duty; he felt that he could not evade any responsibility that came to him as a member of the committee or this House.

Moreover, he realized, as but few new Members do, that all legislation, to be effective, beneficial, and just, must be carefully considered and formulated in the committee room.

Active, intelligent committee work is the foundation upon which rests the truly wise measures that govern, build up, and expand the magnificent moral and industrial institutions of our country of which we, as a people, may feel justly proud.

These laws that are initiated and prepared largely in the committee rooms, and almost invariably based upon the principles of wisdom, equity, and justice to all men, hold within their limits more than 80,000,000 of sovereign people, the equals of any on earth.

All this, and the truth of this, was promptly grasped by the pure and active mind and great heart of Brother FLACK; not because of his long service in this national legislative body, for he was just entering upon his first term; not because of a college education, for he had never enjoyed this blessing; but because of his endowment with a mind that was practical, a mind capable of grasping the logical rather than the theoretical affairs of American citizenship.

Brother FLACK was not a man of high pretensions or of many words, but he possessed the faculty of grasping the true situation as it presented itself, and this enabled him to cast his vote and lend his influence for what invariably proved to be the right side of all questions that his brief service permitted him to aid in solving.

His colleagues on the committee realized that for a beginner in legislative work this Member from Malone, N. Y., was much above the average. Every Member of the House of Repre-

sentatives who chanced to enjoy his acquaintance held him in the highest esteem.

There seemed to be a hidden and mysterious power not realized by its possessor that unconsciously drew men to him; they believed what he thought, even though his thoughts were not expressed in many words. Men with such gifts are rare, indeed, but wherever known, in whatever walk of life they are found, their influence is well-nigh immeasurable, and this influence is either for good or for evil.

Thanks to the Creator of the Universe for the lofty purposes, pure mind, and love of justice so conspicuous in this man from Malone, for with such a rich heritage all his might, mind, and strength were employed in the discharge of the most exalted duties of husband, a father, a citizen, and a representative of the people, whose confidence in him was unbounded.

Mr. FLACK enjoyed the respect of the people in his home town of Malone, N. Y., to a remarkable degree. I was impressed with this fact from personal observation and coming in contact with the citizens of Malone. I chanced to be one of the members of the committee from this body who attended the funeral of the deceased, and it was gratifying to me to listen to the many testimonials offered by his fellow-townsmen; the evidence was unquestioned that WILLIAM H. FLACK was held in the highest esteem by those who had known him the longest and whose associations with him had been the closest.

Where can we look for better assurance of the true worth of any man than in his own town and among his neighbors with whom he has mingled for a long period of years?

I thought as I witnessed the sadness visible on every countenance, the genuine mourning that pervaded the very atmosphere in Malone, that W. H. FLACK was all that I had believed him to be—a truly good man.

Mr. Speaker, WILLIAM H. FLACK, our beloved colleague, is dead; his life's burdens are cast off, his cares, his griefs, his sorrows, his responsibilities, his joys and pleasures are all ended.

He sleeps, and there is no power to arouse him till the trumpet shall sound that calls to the throne of Him who reigns supreme over His children of the earth, there to receive from His hand the final reward or chastisement according to their deserts.

The body of WILLIAM H. FLACK lies in the cemetery at Malone.

The curtain has been let down between the living and the dead, and behind that impenetrable curtain all is mystery.

It is not given to mortal man positively to know the habitation of a departed life; we know the tomb that holds the body; we know not of the spirit that has departed, because no man hath seen beyond the grave. We who believe in an all-wise and just Ruler of the Universe, He who holds in his hands the destiny of men, of nations, and the world, and all therein, should be content to leave with him the solution of life, death, and the eternity to follow.

They who do right accordingly as they are given to see the right, they who walk in the pathway that leads on to the better and nobler things of this life, who do good and avoid evil deeds, who walk uprightly before all men, doing unto others as they would that others should do unto them, may well afford to trust their future destiny in the hands of Him who doeth all things well.

I sincerely believe that these requirements were as nearly met as the frailties of human kind can meet them by our late beloved colleague, WILLIAM H. FLACK.

Address of Mr. Bennet, of New York

Mr. Speaker: William H. Flack was born and lived and died in Franklin County, in the State of New York. To those of us who come from the shifting population of a large city it is hard at times to comprehend the distinction which public office confers in other portions of the State, where the population is more settled. The counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence, which comprise the district represented here by Mr. Flack in the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses, do not choose their representatives to public office lightly. Strongly Republican, a nomination there is usually equivalent to election. There have been many men there of whom it can be said, as of Mr. Flack, that their birth, their life, and their death have all been within the limits of one county. The habit of wandering is not strong, attachment to the soil is great; consequently a man in public life there is known to the voters, and even those who do not know him personally know of him.

I read in the biography of our late colleague that he held successively the offices of supervisor (being chairman of the board for two years), county clerk of Franklin County, chairman of the Republican county committee, trustee of the village of Malone, and Representative in Congress. Had he not been a man in the best sense of the word he would not have been so honored.

Knowing, as I do, the character of the men in the northeast portion of our State, a simple recital of the titles of these offices means much to me. It is the most complete of eulogies. I remember that from the same town of Malone came Con-

gressman Wheeler, who in 1876 became Vice-President Wheeler; and I remember the other many distinguished men who have come from those four counties.

Prior to my service in the assembly of New York my knowledge of the men of that section was limited. But during my two years there I came to know, to appreciate them, and quite generally to vote with them. In stature large, for the most part, as was our deceased colleague, with clear minds and straight-thinking brains, it is no light or idle thing to represent such a constituency. We all know that illness prevented our colleague from making the record here that he otherwise might. During almost the whole of his two terms he was compelled by physical ailment to be absent, but we can all believe that had his health been such as to permit the record which he could have made, he would have been a credit even to that particular community. We knew him as a kindly, genial, straightforward, brotherly colleague. We shall miss him. We can rejoice that he faced the inevitable without shrinking. We are in some ways better for his having been here. Now that he is gone at so early an age, we can be glad that he had the privilege of this service. It meant much to him. His people were glad to be represented by him, and in him his district and his State had a worthy Representative. He leaves behind him that good name, which is more to be preferred than great riches.

Address of Mr. Perkins, of New York

Mr. Speaker: I only knew Mr. Flack during his service in Congress. There I did not know him intimately, but I knew him pleasantly. Mr. Flack was a good type of a large and valuable class of men in public life. He was not a person who sought actively for personal prominence; he took little part in the debates in the House; he did not seek to exert any large influence on legislation. His strength lay in a just recognition of what he could do well and in a conscientious performance of the work for which he was fitted.

We sometimes underestimate the value of the work of such men. The community is naturally attracted by those who take a more conspicuous part, and those we call our leaders. It is probably nearer the truth to say that a large body of sensible, well-intentioned men, who do their work quietly and conscientiously, listening to what others say and exercising their own judgment, are really the leaders in politics and legislation. The story is told of a French officer, in some internal commotion in Paris, who cried out:

> My company is marching down the street, and I must follow.

In this remark, at which many have jested, there is a profound philosophy. The officer did not misstate his true position; he recognized it. It is the company that leads, and little remains for the officer but to march after his men. If he bids them go in the direction they would go, they will follow him, and otherwise he will find that he must follow them.

This is eminently true of our great political bodies, and therein was Mr. Flack's usefulness and the usefulness of those

who are like him. He formed one of a body of fair-minded men, who wish to do the thing that is right and who have intelligence enough to find out what that thing is. To such men the captains and the leaders address themselves, and when they have decided on the best policy, the captains and leaders follow in their wake.

Mr. FLACK'S usefulness was not lessened by any itching for notoriety nor any morbid desire for personal prominence. Freed from such distractions, he did his duty as an intelligent legislator, and this entitled him to the respect of his fellowmen. That he was kindly, that he was courteous, that he bore pain and sickness with fortitude and without vain repining constitutes an additional claim upon the kindly feeling of his associates and upon their recollection now that he is no more.

Address of Mr. Driscoll, of New York

Mr. Speaker: Again, to-day, we are summoned to perform the sad office of mourning the death and commemorating the life of a Member of the New York delegation in the House of Representatives.

This is indeed a sorrowful occasion, more so than the other. The old must die and the young may die. To the one the end comes in the ordinary course and progress of natural laws. To the other it is violent, and it conflicts with some of those laws. The earthly tabernacle, however sound and strong in youth, grows old and weak with time and toil. When no longer able to sustain the soul, the spirit, the life, the vital spark, by whatever name, escapes without much struggle, pain, or suffering, and that is death. Not so with the man in youth or middle age. Some of the organs of the physical mechanism are strong and sound and perform their functions normally, while others, by inheritance or disease, are imperfect and can not do their part. In youth there is hope and resolution. The will is strong and so is love of life. The fight goes on in pain and travail until the vitality is exhausted and the patient must needs succumb. That, too, is death, but much more sad and tragic.

General Ketcham had overlived the allotted time of man on earth. He had done his work and rounded out his career, and full of years and honors he passed away. But while Mr. Flack was yet in his prime, with many hopes and aspirations, and while he was still looking forward, his message came. He was cut off in the midst of his plans when his life work was only partially completed. But notwithstanding his poor health

during his last years, and his early death, he accomplished much for good. Born and reared in northern New York, with its cold, stormy, severe winters and delightful, invigorating summers, he grew up strong, sturdy, and self-reliant, with a large body and a sound well-balanced mind. His early condition in life was about the same as that of the great majority of American boys who have worked their way and made their mark. He was poor, but that was no cross. Poverty in Franklin County, where few are rich and all are measured by what they are, is quite a different matter from poverty in Wall street, where riches are the rule and all are measured by what they have, no matter how acquired.

In the country, on the farm, the American boy is not abjectly poor. There social distinctions are not based on wealth. The hired boy on the farm hopes some day to own a farm of his own. The hired girl who works in another's kitchen hopes some day to be a prosperous farmer's wife. There the employee and the employer eat at the same table, worship at the same altar, and mingle in the same social gatherings. The hired man may be poor in material accumulations, but he is rich is health and vigor, in hope and promise. Poverty under these conditions and in such an environment is never debasing, for it is not humiliating or belittling. That kind of poverty and that sort of adversity develop confidence and efficiency, build character, and fit the poor boy to improve his opportunities when they come. In that social condition and amidst those surroundings Mr. FLACK was reared, and all through his life he typified that phase of our American civilization. He was never truculent and time serving toward those who thought they were his superiors, nor was he ever arrogant or overbearing in his attitude toward those less fortunate in getting on. He was ever a plain, big-hearted man, kind and gen-

erous toward all and obsequious toward none. In these times, when gold is worshiped and the dollar is placed above the man and social castes and distinctions are being established on bank accounts, it would be well if our young men would study the character and emulate the virtues of such men as WILLIAM FLACK.

Manifestly Mr. FLACK had a taste and aptitude for public life. No man could accomplish what he did by accident. He was seven years supervisor of his town and two years chairman of the board. He was six years county clerk of his native county, and he was also trustee and president of the village of Malone, and two terms Representative in Congress from the Twenty-sixth district of New York. He was also leader and chairman of the Republican organization of his county. That means that he was an able politician as well as a capable and honest public servant. He was in public life nearly all his years after attaining majority, which indicates that he was respected and trusted by those who knew him well. I am aware that some people speak with disrespect of politicians. They seem to look upon them as rogues, rascals, and crooks, and enemies of good society. On the part of some criticisms of this kind are prompted by envy and jealousy, and yet others, honest but misguided people, actually believe it. There can be no greater mistake. No criticism has less of justification. Of course there are politicians and politicians. Some are honest and others are corrupt. But in honesty, public spirit, and in all civic and moral virtues they are far above the general average of society. They are not theorists or idealists alone. They must be practical in order to accomplish results. This is a representative government from top to bottom.

Every official, whether elected or appointed, holds his commission by the will of the electors, and all the way from the

President down they fairly represent their constituents in virtue and intelligence. And Mr. FLACK was fully up to the average of his. He was kind-hearted and generous, and happiest when he was helping others and conferring favors. He had learned the luxury of doing good. If he was willing to receive, he was also disposed to give to the full measure of his ability. He was not vindictive; he was always ready to forgive and forget. He treated his opponents fairly, took no advantage, and never hit below the belt. He was not a cynic, neither was he a scolding, carping critic of men and measures. He took the world as he found it, and adapted himself to conditions, and tried to make them better. He was generous to his enemies and loyal to his friends, and they were loyal to him. He was not hot-headed and given to passion and arrogance, for he had a kindly disposition and a good word for each and all. He was an optimist, and looked on the bright side of the picture. He was well disposed toward all, had faith in his fellow-men and they had faith in him. He did not play to the galleries or court spectacular applause, but in a plain and unassuming manner did his duty day by day as he saw it. His head was clear, his heart was warm, and his ideals were high. He was possessed of sound common sense, and when he made up his mind and took a position, he held it with determination and consistency.

That kind of a politician was Mr. FLACK, and these were the qualities of mind and heart which enabled him to retain the confidence of all who knew him well. The town of Waverly, the county of Franklin, the village of Malone, and the Twenty-sixth Congressional district are unusually intelligent and progressive constituencies. They successively and repeatedly honored Mr. FLACK by electing him to office. Why did they do so? He was not a distinguished orator or writer. He was not possessed of those rare intellectual gifts by which some men dazzle and charm multitudes and command their obedience.

He was not a man of such means that he could corrupt those electorates, if so disposed. They honored him because they knew and trusted him and because they liked him. He won his way step by step from place to place, always advancing by the sheer force of his good character, common sense, and personal magnetism. He wore his decorations so modestly and gracefully that the people delighted to honor him.

The House of Representatives is a distinguished body, so large that the ordinary Member cuts but little figure. It is governed by traditions, customs, and rules—especially rules. Because of those traditions, customs, and rules, and lack of experience the most brilliant men make but little headway during their first two terms. Mr. FLACK served nearly four years, but he was handicapped by ill health nearly all the time. His colleagues from New York, and others who made his intimate acquaintance, liked, respected, and trusted him. His mind worked on honest lines. His judgment was sound, his conclusions reliable. He was careful, honest, and patriotic. With continued life, health, and service in the Congress he would have worked his way to the front here as in other fields of his activities. But after all his reputation will depend on his work and life at home in Franklin County. Assurance, cheek, and gall count for much on short acquaintance, while only substantial merit assures respect among those who know one well. WILL FLACK was admired and loved by his boyhood playmates and his life long friends and neighbors. By the good people of Franklin County and beautiful and picturesque Malone he was known, understood, and appreciated. By them he is and will be missed. Their high regard for him in life and deep sorrow for his death bear witness to his worth.

Address of Mr. Fitzgerald, of New York

Mr. Speaker: The State of New York has suffered irreparable loss in its representation in this Congress through death. Two men—one aged, experienced, and trained in legislative work and methods, the Hon. John H. Ketcham, the other in the prime of life, with the vigor of ripened manhood, and infused with enthusiasm for legislative work, William H. Flack—have passed away within a few months.

William H. Flack was the type of man bound to succeed in a legislative body. He had had experience as a public official, serving in local boards and other offices with credit and some distinction. He had successfully managed and enlarged and developed several business enterprises in which he was interested, and he was known and regarded as one who had succeeded in his life's struggle.

It was natural that such a man should be selected by the people of his district to represent it in the Congress. For years he had been active in the management of industries upon the success of which the prosperity of his people largely depended. He knew their legislative wants and understood their position on public questions as well as, if not better, than any other man in the district.

My acquaintanceship with Mr. Flack did not antedate his entrance to this body. While not long nor intimate, yet it was sufficient to enable me with some degree of confidence to place a proper estimate upon his character and his capacity.

He was a large-hearted, kindly spoken, generous man. In demeanor he was modest. In speech he was direct and apparently bent upon using the fewest possible words to convey

intelligently his meaning. He was an indefatigable worker and devoted to the interests committed to his care. He had a high sense of the dignity and the responsibility of membership in this body, and had he been permitted to continue here he would undoubtedly have left an indelible impress for good upon the legislation enacted during his service.

Inscrutable, indeed, Mr. Speaker, are the ways of Divine Providence. At the age of 46, successful in business, honored by a great constituency by being chosen to represent it in this body, surrounded by a happy, contented, and united family, he began a career in this House which to the impartial observer seemed full of promise. Yet in the very heyday of his success and prosperity he has been called to another, a happier, and more blessed life.

Address of Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio

Mr. Speaker: I never knew Hon. William H. Flack until he came to Congress. He was a man of great modesty. He never, I believe, addressed the House. If he did, I have no recollection of it. He was a man who may have been said to have been reticent and possibly timid in pushing his opinions, but he was a man of intelligence, possessing strong judgment as to matters of business and legislation. He was pleasant, genial, and companionable. I can say but little of him, for I knew nothing of him in his home life. I knew nothing of him in his political life at home. I knew nothing of him only as I gathered the mere fragments that indicate character while he served his short term.

He was stricken with disease, and longed to return to his duties. He was a strong advocate and supporter of the measures seeking to build up the American merchant marine, and he took especial interest in the promotion of the interests of the fish industries of the various States and Territories. He was active in support of the omnibus fish-hatchery bill, and wrote and presented to the House the report of the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries upon that measure. Had his life been spared and had he had strength and health, I am sure he would have made an efficient and valuable Member of Congress. But, stricken as he was, hopelessly ailing as he was, we could only hear that he was regretting his untimely disqualification for active service. His neighbors speak of him in the highest terms of praise, and the fact that he was sent to Congress from so intelligent a constituency speaks well for him and leaves little doubt that he was a man of high character and of virtuous mind.

FURTHER ACTION OF THE HOUSE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In pursuance of the orders heretofore made, and as a further mark of respect to the deceased, the House will now stand adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock a. m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

SATURDAY, *February 2, 1907.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. C. R. McKenney, its enrolling clerk, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 2, 1907.

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That a committee of fifteen Members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Sherman, Mr. Littauer, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Draper, Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Dwight, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Goulden, of New York; Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio; Mr. Minor, of Wisconsin; Mr. Watson, of Indiana; Mr. Howell, of New Jersey, and Mr. Reynolds, of Pennsylvania, members of the committee on the part of the House.

Mr. DEPEW. Mr. President, I ask for the adoption of the resolutions, which I send to the desk.

The resolutions were read, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That a committee of six Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to join a committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The VICE-PRESIDENT appointed as members of the committee on the part of the Senate under the second resolution Mr. Platt, Mr. Depew, Mr. Kean, Mr. Bulkeley, Mr. Dubois, and Mr. Newlands.

Mr. DEPEW. Mr. President, I move, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until Monday, February 4, 1907, at 12 o'clock meridian.

SATURDAY, *March 2, 1907*.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 24, 1907.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended and that opportunity be now afforded Members to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That as a special mark of respect and esteem for Mr. FLACK, the House, at the conclusion of these proceedings, adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. DEPEW. Mr. President, I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk, and I ask for their adoption.

The resolutions were read and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. FLACK, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended in order that a fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

ADDRESS OF MR. DEPEW, OF NEW YORK

Mr. PRESIDENT: When a man has passed his limit of three score and ten, and four score is near, his death is not an interruption, but the sudden checking of ultimate possibilities. We mourn his loss as we have in the last hour that of General Ketcham, who died at 74. But when the dread event comes in the early forties it is more than an ordinary calamity. The citizen who is in his meridian and has accomplished something of success is a valuable asset of his community and of the State. He has cleared the obstacles and difficulties from his pathway, his judgment has ripened, experience has made him wise, and the course before him is clear.

Mr. WILLIAM HENRY FLACK commenced the struggle early, with no advantages other than those afforded by the common school. He made his fight in the battle with the world in the community where he was born. At 46, when he died, he had been a success in business, a trustee and president of his village, chairman of his party committee in the county, and twice a Member of Congress from the district comprising the counties of St. Lawrence, Franklin, Essex, and Clinton. In the usual course of events he should have possessed thirty years more for service to his country and rewards for himself.

The difficulties which surround a country boy who aspires not only to business success, but to a political career, are greater than those which meet the son of the city. This is peculiarly

the case where political distinction is desired. The man of the town is absorbed in the hot competitions of his vocation. The theater, the club, and other social diversions claim his spare time. It is only in periods of excitement about public questions that his attention is diverted to political matters. Public opinion in great cities is dormant unless aroused by some crisis in the affairs of the municipality, the State, or the nation. After a period of feverish and passionate activity the people settle down again to the normal conditions with less interest in public affairs than in those which pertain immediately to their welfare. In the city there is no neighborhood. The citizen rarely knows who lives on his street or who are the occupants of the other apartments in his apartment house. Many a man who has been distinguished and looked up to by his neighbors in the country, who has been a local oracle and in a measure the pride of the people, has come to the metropolis for a larger field for his talents and activities. I have had the ex-judge and the ex-Senator or ex-Congressman say to me: "I do not know who lives on either side of me or across the way. I am a stranger in the elevator to those who are going to their offices in the vast building. I am jostled in the streets and crowded on the cars. Few call upon my family, and we might almost as well be in the Desert of Sahara. I miss the attention and recognition to which I have been accustomed, and that most delightful flattery in the world—the respect and admiration of men, women, and children—which I had at home, and we are going back. No pecuniary rewards compensate for the loss of that human contact and brotherly feeling which constitute the larger part of the pleasures of life." Under these conditions the organization more than the individual governs his career unless he can control the organization.

In the country, however, the circle of the citizen enlarges

with his activities and he becomes socially and politically well known, first in the town, then the county, and afterwards the district; but he must be somebody and do something which raises him above the average in order to receive recognition as a leader. Happily for our institutions, politics in these rural communities are not the spasmodic and often wild passions or crazes of the hour, but they are the thought and the pursuit of everyone all the year round. The newspapers are not read for the stock market or telegraphic news or cablegrams, but for editorials, transactions of conventions, and speeches of public men. Magazines are on the table of the sitting room not for ornament, but to be read. The lecture hall takes the place of the theater, and there the greatest questions of religion, politics, and sociology are discussed. The interval between the morning and afternoon service on Sunday is utilized as a sort of Chautauqua for the interchange of views, and they promote general education. It is to the credit of Mr. FLACK that he made his career in such a community. There is no community more typical of the very best conditions of rural life in the country than the district which Mr. FLACK represented in Congress. Its common and high schools, its academies and its college, are of the foremost educational rank. Its people have always been noted for their public spirit, interest in public affairs, and pronounced convictions. In the best sense they are all politicians, and the schoolhouse is as much a political primary as it is a primary school. Men of State and national fame have been its representatives. No ordinary man could command the suffrages of these counties. The difficulties in the way of success are greater because they are overwhelmingly of the same party, and a nomination is an election, and the competition is infinitely keener than where a nomination means a doubtful fight.

Mr. FLACK possessed not only the confidence of the people, which led to his being so often honored, and each time with promotion, but he had in a peculiar degree the love as well as the respect of all. He possessed a personality so agreeable and a disposition so charming that they won to him everyone with whom he came in contact. His illness, unfortunately, prevented continued activities in the House of Representatives, but while here he was a conscientious worker and had the confidence and respect of his associates. He leaves an honorable record for his family and for the representation of New York in the Congress of the United States.

FURTHER ACTION OF THE SENATE.

I move that the Senate do now take a recess.

The motion was agreed to; and (at 9 o'clock and 32 minutes p. m.) the Senate took a recess until to-morrow, Sunday, March 3, at 11 o'clock a. m.

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